

**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE®**

Personal

Study Guide

ADULTS • KJV

FALL 2025

THE GREATEST TRUTHS OF ALL TIME
HOW TO HANDLE LIFE'S INTERRUPTIONS



THE KEY TO A LONG LIFE

If you want to live a longer life, you can do several things:

- Eat healthy
- Exercise
- Get plenty of rest

If you want to live forever, you only need to do one thing:

- Remove all the sin in your life

Removing your sin is the solution, but the problem is, you can't do it! But Jesus can. God loves you and doesn't want to leave you in your sin. Sin leads to eternal death, but He wants you with Him for eternity. Jesus took your sin and died in your place. God raised Jesus from the dead, and His resurrected life means resurrected life for you too. Forgiveness. Freedom. A new beginning. A life with Him that never ends.

If you would like to live forever in Christ, repent of your sins and put your faith in Him. Admit to God that you are a sinner. Turn from the sin that has kept you from God and accept Jesus's gift of forgiveness. Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Express your repentance and faith by praying something like this:

“Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died on the cross to forgive me of my sins. I'm sorry for all the wrong I've done and ask You to forgive me. I now accept Your gift of eternal life. Thank You for forgiveness and for new life in Jesus Christ. From this day forward, I choose to follow You. In Jesus's name, Amen.”

Share your decision to follow Jesus with a pastor or those in your Bible study group. Get involved in a church that will help you grow in your faith. Be baptized as an expression of your faith.

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WELCOME

A change of season is upon us! For many of us, Fall means getting back into a routine, and a valuable part of any routine is a regular connection with others around God's Word. The book you are holding will help you do just that.

This issue includes two studies built on our plan for discipleship and growing deeper in our walk with Christ. The study, "The Greatest Truths of All Time," will help us engage with Scripture as we explore the central themes that run through all of God's Word. The second study, "How to Handle Life's Interruptions," will deepen our obedience to God, because life's interruptions are a good indicator of who is in charge of our lives. This study pushes us to obediently trust God rather than our own plans.

I encourage you to read a little more about the plan and strategy behind Bible Studies for Life. Check out pages 8, 62, and 129 to see how these studies will contribute to your walk with Christ.

Enjoy the time you spend reading these studies built on God's Word. And may God richly bless your time with your Bible study group!

Brian Gass

Content Editor, *Bible Studies for Life*

How This Study Supports the Discipleship Plan (see page 129).

ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE.

The six great subjects in this study hit upon the central themes that run through all of Scripture.

THE GREATEST TRUTHS OF ALL TIME

- Session 1** The Greatest Name • Isaiah 42:1-12

- Session 2** The Greatest Need • Luke 5:17-26

- Session 3** The Greatest Sin • Matthew 12:22-32

- Session 4** The Greatest Gift • Romans 5:6-11,18-21

- Session 5** The Greatest Command • Mark 12:28-34

- Session 6** The Greatest Return • 1 Thessalonians 4:16–5:8

INTRODUCTION

THE GREATEST TRUTHS OF ALL TIME

We live in a world obsessed with goats. Not the farm animals, but the acronym that refers to the Greatest Of All Time [G.O.A.T.]. We love to determine who is the greatest player in a given sport, or the greatest president, car, invention, and discovery in history. It's both fascinating and trivial, depending on your personal interests.

One GOAT list that's not trivial but worthy of study is what could be called the Greatest Scriptural Truths of All Time. This unit will dive into six of the greatest themes throughout the totality of Scripture. These six greatest truths are a must-know to anyone who calls Jesus their Savior, or is searching for truth and meaning in this life and the next. These GOATS of the Christian life are . . .

- The Greatest Name: YAHWEH
- The Greatest Need: Forgiveness
- The Greatest Sin: Not embracing Christ
- The Greatest Gift: Salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- The Greatest Command: Love God and Others
- The Greatest Return: The Day of the Lord

These themes aren't trivial but are eternal, with the power to transform a person from death to life, darkness to light, and night to day. Join us as we study God's Word together.

Author

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Session 7

JESUS

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The Greatest Name

THE POINT

There is only one God and only His name deserves glory.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Names are important. It's rare to see boys named Judas or Damien, or hear Jezebel tossed around as a possible girl's name. Instead, names are chosen to inspire and encourage.

I have inherited a great name, at least my surname. My first name is altogether different. I was named after a soap opera character my mom thought was cute, who was also killed off the show shortly after my birth. Not a great start.

My grandfather and father lived lives that brought respect and honor to the last name I inherited. More than a few times, I was referred to as so-and-so's grandson or son, with great pride. Just before I left college, my dad told me to never forget who I was and whose name I carry. Big challenge, but gladly accepted.

The prophet Isaiah spoke of a coming "Servant" who would represent God. We now know that Servant by the name of Jesus. His mission was to represent God and His name accurately and to bring honor and glory to that name.

Let's discover how Isaiah said Jesus would do that.

QUESTION 1:

In your opinion, who is the greatest name in the field of sports, literature, or film?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

ISAIAH 42:1-4

¹ Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. ² He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. ³ A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. ⁴ He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

Isaiah 42 contains the first of four “Servant Songs” describing the coming Messiah. Isaiah is often called the prince of prophets. His tenure as prophet spanned four kings and almost sixty years, dating from 740–690 B.C. His book has the most sweeping prophecies of our Messiah, covering everything from how He would enter the world to how He would leave it. The book has been referred to as the fifth gospel, and even its name means “Jehovah is salvation.”

The Bible reveals two portraits of the Messiah who would come:

- **Messiah, Son of David: The Lion of Judah.** He would be the victorious King who conquers the enemy and rescues His people.
- **Messiah, Son of Man: The sacrificial Lamb of God.** He would be the Suffering Servant who takes the penalty for His people.

Jewish thought held that one man could not fulfill both roles. Biblical history informs us otherwise. Jesus is both the Lion and the Lamb. In His first advent, He was the Lamb; in His second, He will be the Lion.

Isaiah opened this first servant song with the words “Behold” (v. 1). The phrase means to fix your gaze, marvel, wonder, study, notice, and consider. Think of a bride at her wedding—all eyes and attention should be upon her as she marches down the aisle. The remainder of verse 1 reveals some characteristics of this coming Messiah:

- **“Servant”:** One who acts on behalf of another.
- **“Whom I uphold”:** God will protect, direct, and supply His Servant with all He needs.
- **“Elect”:** Selected since the foundation of the world.
- **“In whom my soul delighteth”:** The Father delights in the Son before He has done anything related to the mission.
- **“I have put my Spirit upon him”:** The Servant is personally anointed by the Lord.

These prophecies were written 700 years before Jesus’s birth, but each was fulfilled.

Two themes fill the rest of these verses: justice and humility. Judgment is mentioned three times. The Servant will:

- **Bring judgment to the nations (v. 1).** The nations include the Gentiles.
- **Faithfully bring forth judgment (v. 3).** He will be true to the Father’s purpose.
- **Establish judgment on earth (v. 4).** He will not be disheartened until His work is finished.

The word for justice, *mishpawt*, means “a fair judgment” or “to set things right.” The Servant is to set things right between God and all His rebellious children.

The second theme tells how He will deliver this divine justice. The Servant will not shout His message in the streets for the masses. With gentleness and humility, He will carry it to those who are broken and bruised. He will set things right for those who have little to live for. This

justice will bring life and hope to those who have little left.

This task would be difficult. He would face trouble and opposition but would not be disheartened until He faithfully delivers justice to the overlooked and forgotten. Jesus, the Servant, was to be the sacrificial lamb who bore the sins of the world. This justice will reach the coastland and the islands—in other words, to the uttermost parts of the world. In John 17, facing His final days, Jesus expressed that His sole desire was to glorify His Father. He did it perfectly, and the coasts and the islands still hear of His justice.

QUESTION 2:

What hope do these verses give you about the Servant’s mission?

ISAIAH 42:5-8

⁵ Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: ⁶ I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; ⁷ To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. ⁸ I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Signatures on a mortgage make bold promises, namely, to repay the money borrowed for the purchased house. To verify the validity of this promise, the person must be confirmed

as trustworthy and able to keep their word. Promises were made concerning the Servant whom Isaiah’s audience was to behold. He would bring justice to the nations. Verses 5-8

are the verification, or credit check, of the promise maker.

Isaiah identified the guarantor as God the LORD. The word *LORD* is the name we use in English for Yahweh, God's personal name that He gave to His people. The structure of the Lord's announcement is . . .

- The Lord's credentials are revealed.
- The Lord's promises are proclaimed.
- The Lord's name is glorified.

Isaiah established the Lord's credentials as the one "that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it" (v. 5). Isaiah used the phrase "stretched them out," a repeat of 40:22. That was counterintuitive, at the time the universe was believed to be static. It wasn't until the early 1920s, thanks to scientists named Einstein, Hubble, and Friedmann, that we confirmed Isaiah was right all along. The universe is expanding, or being "stretched out."

He is the One "that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein" (v. 5). Those words recall the creation account of Genesis 1–2, where the Lord breathed life into the ones He molded. These credentials verify the Promise Maker is also the Promise Keeper. After His credentials were verified, the Lord Himself spoke to His Servant. He made specific promises concerning the righteous purpose for which He had been called. It was a call to transform the rebellious into the righteous. Everything about the mission was "right." Paul echoed this "rightness" in his letter to the Romans (Rom. 5:6), stating that at the right time, Christ came to die for sinners.

In verse 6, the Lord spoke directly to us, promising things on which the Servant could count. With His own hand, God would hold and protect Him. The same hands that stretched out the galaxies, dug the oceans, and raised the mountains would lead Him and watch over Him. Even though it would be difficult, it would be accomplished because of the Lord's hand.

The Lord didn't tell the Servant He would bring, deliver, or administer a covenant. Instead, He *would be* the covenant for all people. He would also be a light to the nations. Isaiah had previously connected light to salvation (9:2). The Servant would:

- Open blind eyes;
- Bring out prisoners from the dungeon;
- Bring out those in the darkness.

Jesus, the Servant, fulfilled these words some 700 years later. He opened the eyes of the blind and set the prisoner spiritually free.

QUESTION 3:

In what ways do you see people giving glory to idols instead of to God?

QUESTION 4:

How should we respond to God's great work in our world and in our lives?

Engage

JESUS, THE SERVANT

Consider the prophetic descriptions of Jesus in Isaiah 42 and how they relate to you. Place a checkmark next to the ones that are particularly meaningful to you right now. Then write a prayer of praise for Jesus, the Servant.

- I honor Jesus as God's Servant.**
- I actively value the strength of Jesus.**
- I know that in the end Jesus will bring justice.**
- God delights in Jesus Christ.**
- Jesus is the One chosen by the Father.**
- Jesus never grows weak.**
- The Spirit of God is on Jesus.**

My Prayer:

ISAIAH 42:9-12

⁹ Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. ¹⁰ Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof. ¹¹ Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. ¹² Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.

The Lord, still speaking in verse 9, reminded His people once again why they could trust His promises. To highlight this, God called them to remember events that had already transpired. “Before they spring forth” (v. 9) carries the idea of a plant or grass blade breaking through the surface and suddenly appearing out of the ground. It’s the result of hidden work below the surface. There’s little doubt that this new thing is the work of the Servant we know to be Jesus.

Isaiah closed out this section of the Servant song in a similar way to his other Servant songs—a hymn of praise. The purpose is to raise the audience’s eyes from their current difficult circumstances and be inspired by what the Lord will do in the future.

Why a new song? For there to be a new song, there had to be an old song. Just as His people sang His praises for the things that had already taken place, there will be new songs of praise lifted for the new things that are about to spring up. Once the Lord brings justice to the nations through the Servant, there will be yet another new reason to sing praise songs to the one and only true God.

Who will sing this new song? It will be sung by all people and from all places:

- Sailors who go down to the seas,
- Island dwellers,
- Nomadic desert wanderers,
- City and mountain lovers.

The new song is a foreshadowing of the day when all people from every tribe will behold the Lord as the one true God. This new song is a reminder that the first time the Servant came as the Messiah, son of Joseph, the Lamb, to reconcile, but the second time He will come as the Messiah, Son of David, the Lion of Judah, to conquer. And He will take those of us who have trusted in Him to heaven.

QUESTION 5:

How would you describe the new song God has put in your heart?

LIVE IT OUT

There is only one God and only His name deserves glory. Choose one of the following applications.

- **Memorize.** Commit Philippians 2:9-11 to memory. Reflect on those words and ask God to show how you can live under His lordship each day.
- **Write.** The Bible speaks of a new song. Write a hymn, poem, or spoken word thanking the Lord for His faithfulness in the past and His promises for the future. Share this work with others or use it in your personal worship to glorify God.
- **Encourage.** There are many bruised people in our communities. Someone you know is going through a hard time. Send this person a note of encouragement with a promise from God of His faithfulness.


